



Herbert Swanson

May 15, 1927 - January 5, 2014

Herbert Swanson, of Cadillac, formerly of LeRoy, passed away at his home early Sunday morning, January 5, 2014, with members of his family at his bedside. He was 86.

Herb was born the youngest of five children on May 15, 1927, at the family farm in LeRoy, to Carl and Ethel (Nelson) Swanson. He was raised on the farm and graduated from LeRoy High School in 1944. Herb was the captain and a key member of the 1944 LeRoy basketball team which reached the state finals with a 34 game winning streak.

In August of 1944, Herb joined the U.S. Army, being sent to the University of Illinois for three terms and then Michigan State for three months before serving for seven months in the Galapagos Islands.

On April 15, 1950, Herb married the former Ruth Johnson, of Cadillac, at Zion Lutheran Church in Cadillac. He is survived by his wife of 63 years.

Herb's employment began as co-owner of Swanson Brothers' Lumber of LeRoy. After several years, he turned to farming and bought a farm on the south end of LeRoy. With another brother, he raised beef and dairy cattle, and farmed many crops, most prominently, potatoes. The last 10 years of his working life were spent at Yoplait of Reed City where he retired in 1989.

Herb was a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church in LeRoy. He was an extremely active member holding several offices over the years. He was also a member of the LeRoy and Pine River school boards for 20 years. He enjoyed his family, sports in all capacities, and traveling. He even traveled abroad twice to see relatives.

In addition to his wife, Herb is survived by his children: Rick (Patti) Swanson of Manton, Dennis (Vona) Swanson of Big Rapids, Jim (Barb) Swanson of Grand Rapids, and Sandra (Sam) Dean of Orchard Park, N.Y.; grandchildren: Malinda Swanson, Daniel (Sarah) Swanson, Matthew (Callie) Swanson, Andrew (Jennifer) Swanson, Nathan (Amy) Swanson, Haley Swanson, Kirsten Dean, Adam Swanson; step-grandchildren, Sydney Nulf and Henry Nulf; eight great-grandchildren: Chloe, Quinton, Brody, Beckett, Grayson, Kaia, McKynley, and Cora; siblings: Alfreda Swanson of Cadillac, Karl Phillip (Darlene) Swanson, and Emil (Joan) Swanson, both of LeRoy; and in-laws: Ella Mae Swanson, Hilda Enderton, Joyce Johnson, and Richard and Barb Johnson. Many nieces and nephews also survive.

Herb was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Robert "Stanley" Swanson.

Herb was a kind, hard-working, and loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Visitation to celebrate his life will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 10, 2014, at Augustana Lutheran Church in Tustin. A luncheon will follow in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Zion Lutheran Church of LeRoy.

Final resting place will be Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac.

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ Please accept my condolences on the loss of your dear loved one. Take comfort in knowing that our loving Creator, Jehovah, will soon remove all pain, sorrow, and death forever! Revelation 21:3,4 May this promise help you gain the strength and inner peace to cope with the days ahead knowing that Jehovah is by your side.
Philippians 4:13

D. Johnson - January 11, 2014 at 05:04 PM

DR

“ What a wonderful family Herb and Ruth started. I am thankful to have known him.

David Runyon - January 10, 2014 at 07:07 PM

MT

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of loss. You have our deepest sympathies and condolences.

Mark and Toni - January 09, 2014 at 10:57 AM

BS

“ He was a great person, community leader and family member. We will all miss him. My sympathies to you.

Bonnie Smith - January 08, 2014 at 08:49 PM

TS

“ So sorry for your loss, Rick and Patti. Sounds like he lived a good life.

Teri Szabo - January 08, 2014 at 06:18 PM

EB

“ You were so lucky to have Herb in your life. We went to Johnson School at the same time. Remember all the good times.

EDITH MARCUS BASSETT - January 08, 2014 at 11:16 AM

AC

“ Haley, Your one of my best friends if you need anything let me know. I am here for you. Its not easy to lose a loved one but just remember the good times you had with them it may be sad now but as time goes on you will start to laugh with everyone about the good times. Just be thankful you had them in your life and god let you be apart of the love he has given to you. Love you all and may god be with you all in this time of need.

Anita Coles - January 07, 2014 at 06:32 PM

TC

“ Our Thoughts and Prayers to the Swanson Family.

Tim & Tonia Cooper - January 07, 2014 at 06:09 PM

LL

“ Sorry for your loss. We were friends and classmates from intermediate grades thru H.S. More recently Shirley and enjoyed any social events with Herb and Ruth. Always a true friend.

Larry Lindell - January 07, 2014 at 04:40 PM

LL

“ Sorry for your loss. We were friends and classmates from intermediate grades thru H.S. More recently Shirley and enjoyed any social events with Herb and Ruth. Always a true friend.

Larry Lindell - January 07, 2014 at 04:29 PM

JN

“ *Sorry for your loss, I am praying for the family.*

Jody Narovich - January 07, 2014 at 04:28 PM

LM

“ *So sorry for your loss. Beautiful obituary written, he was a wonderful , gentle soul. Family and friends will have many wonderful memories for sure!*

Lillian Mansoor - January 07, 2014 at 11:32 AM